

TESORO SPILL MEDIA COVERAGE RECAP

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1. Friday, August 28, 1998, Honolulu Advertiser, "Boaters claim damage from spill"
2. Tuesday, September 8, 1998, Honolulu Advertiser, "5 birds found coated in oil"
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5. Thursday, September 10, 1998, Honolulu Star Bulletin, "Three more oil-covered birds wash ashore on Kauai beaches"
6. Friday, September 11, 1998, Honolulu Advertiser, "Mystery spill claims albatross"
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14. Monday, September 14, 1998, The Garden Island, "Tesoro hikes oil spill estimate"
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16. Monday, September 14, 1998, Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter Press Release, "Sierra Club Calls For Maximum Penalty For Oil Spills"

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17. Monday, September 14, 1998, The Maui News, "Oil spill may be 10 times bigger"
18. Tuesday, September 15, 1998, Honolulu Advertiser, "Search for oil victims widening"
19. Tuesday, September 15, 1998, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, "Fine Tesoro \$25,000 environmentalists say"
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22. Tuesday, September 15, 1998, West Hawaii Today, "Tesoro jacks up size of oil spill"
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25. Wednesday, September 16, 1998, The Garden Island, "Oil-soaked birds should be reported, not buried"
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Boaters claim damage from spill

By Vicki Viotti

Advertiser Staff Writer

Tesoro Hawaii Corp. has mopped up much of a bunker fuel spill from a leak that occurred Monday night at its off-shore fuel mooring, but has just begun fielding complaints from fishermen and other boaters who say their equipment has been damaged.

The leak occurred in a hose connecting the mooring, 1 1/2 miles off Barbers Point, with a ship being fueled or unloading crude oil, Tesoro spokesman

Nathan Hokama said.

The bunker fuel was being piped into the Overseas New York, a tank vessel that was also delivering crude to the Tesoro storage facility onshore, Hokama said.

A sheen was spotted on the water about 8 p.m., and the fueling was stopped, he said. The spill was estimated at 10 barrels, or 420 gallons, said Mark Sielaff, a Coast Guard marine science technician. So far the spill has been carried away from shore and has not threatened shoreline habitats, he added.

Two cleanup vessels operated by petroleum company cooperatives were on the scene by the next day. Repairs to the hose are scheduled for tomorrow.

By yesterday afternoon, four complaints from boaters had been received, all under \$1,000, Hokama said.

The complainants, mostly fishermen, cite damage to fishing line, lures and other gear, Sielaff said.

Damage claims may be filed with the Tesoro claims office at 532-9425.

The Honolulu Advertiser
HAWAII

5 birds found coated in oil

Spill off Kauai may be to blame

By Jan TenBruggencate
Advertiser Kauai Bureau

LIHUE, Kauai — Two species of seabird have been found covered in thick oil during the past few days, possibly from a spill that washed up in small amounts Friday near

Aliomanu, Kauai, that may still be washing ashore.

Three birds were dead, while two others were under the care yesterday of veterinarian Greg Massey of the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, who flew to Kauai from the Division of Forestry and Wild-

life's Maul Veterinary Services Office.

Massey said another oil-coated seabird was found at Makapuu on Oahu last week, but it was not clear whether that case was related to the ones on Kauai, found Friday through yesterday.

The source of the oil is not known. The Coast Guard has taken samples from birds from

both islands to compare with oil from the Aliomanu spill. The samples are being analyzed by a Mainland laboratory, said Coast Guard duty officer Michael Wood at the Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu.

Lt. Mark Willis, command duty officer for the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, said the

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Oil sightings

If you find oil on beaches, call the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Honolulu at 522-8264 or after hours at 927-0830. Kauai residents who find oil-coated birds can call Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge at 828-1413.

Birds: Oil washing up on northeast Kauai beach

FROM PAGE B1

agency got its first call about the oil Friday, and sent a team to Kauai by helicopter at dawn Saturday.

"They couldn't see much oil from the air, and they saw no sheen on the water, but they saw more oil when they were on the beach," Willis said.

The oil that has washed ashore is of varying consistency, suggesting it is from more than one spill, Willis said. Some was weathered, thick and tarlike, while some "was oily like it was fresh, like it was from a new spill."

A contractor hired by the Coast Guard to collect oil reported recovering about a barrel, or 42 gallons, of sandy tar and oil by the time it finished Sunday.

Residents of the area said there was more sludge on the beach yesterday. Willis said it is possible more oil lies under a thin coating of sand. The contractor will be sent out again to clean, he said.

Four of the five birds found on east Kauai beaches were red-footed boobies, while the fifth was a brown booby, said

Nathan Caldwell of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge.

One of the birds was found dead Friday, one died yesterday and one was put to death after it was deemed unlikely to survive.

That leaves one red-footed booby and one brown booby, Massey said, that were about half covered in oil and unable to fly when they were found. Both had low body temperatures and their condition was being stabilized before the tedious work of cleaning the oil from feathers and skin. Massey said it was not known whether they had ingested oil.

Caldwell said there were reports that two birds at the Kilauea refuge had patches of oil on them, but neither could be captured to be checked, he said.

Wildlife officials were waiting to determine whether there are more oil-covered birds before deciding whether to establish a treatment facility. If no more oil-covered birds are reported, Massey said, he will take the two surviving birds to his Maui veterinary center.

Oil-covered birds wash up on Kauai

LIHUE (AP) — A handful of seabirds coated with a thick tar-like oil washed up on a beach in East Kauai Friday.

Veterinarian Greg Massey of the state Department of Land and Natural Resources said one of the birds was already dead, another died Monday and one was euthanized after it was determined unlikely to survive.

The oil began washing ashore Friday in small amounts near Aliomanu, Kauai. The Coast Guard has taken samples but the source of the oil is unknown.

Coast Guard Duty officer Michael Wood at the Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu said the oil

washing ashore is of varying consistency suggesting it is from more than one spill.

Lt. Mark Willis, command duty officer for the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, said the agency began receiving reports of the oil Friday and dispatched a team at dawn Saturday.

"They couldn't see much oil from the air, and they saw no sheen on the water, but they saw more oil when they were on the beach," Willis said.

Some of the oil was weathered, thick and tar-like, while some "was oily like it was fresh, like it was from a new spill," Willis said.

A contractor hired by the Coast

Guard to clean up the oil, as of Sunday, reported collecting about 42 gallons of sandy tar. But area residents say there is still some oil on the beach. Willis said the contractor will be sent out again to clean.

Massey said another oil-covered seabird turned up on Oahu last week at Makapuu. His office is trying to determine if the cases are related.

Nathan Caldwell of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge said two birds with patches of oil on them were sighted in the park.

Wildlife officials are waiting to see if more oil-covered birds turn up before deciding whether to establish a treatment center.

Seabird casualties climb in wake of apparent oil spill

By LESTER CHANG
Staff Writer

LIHU'E — Five more seabirds covered with thick tar-like oil have found their way to Kaua'i, bringing the total to at least 10 known victims of an apparent oil spill.

On Monday, residents spotted the new birds at beaches from Anahoa to the Pacific Missile Range Facility, reported Nathan Caldwell, public use specialist with the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge.

Two of the five birds were taken to the Koloa and Hanalei fire stations for treatment, Caldwell said. The other three were sighted but not recovered.

The two surviving birds are expected to be sent to Greg Massey on Maui for treatment. Massey, a veterinarian with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources,

ces, treated two surviving birds from a group of five recovered late last week.

The discovery of the latest birds came as Pacific Environmental Corp. finished on Sunday a two-day cleanup of tarballs found at Aliamanu Beach and in parts of Anahola Bay, the Coast Guard said.

Should more tarballs be discovered, the cleanup will resume, the Coast Guard said.

The oil began washing ashore Friday in small amounts. When Pacific, which had been hired by the Coast Guard for the cleanup, completed the work, it had collected 42 gallons of sandy tar.

The Coast Guard has not determined the source of the oil, but has sent oil samples to a Coast Guard facility in Connecticut for analysis, said Lt. Mark Willis of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office.

"We are trying to find out who is

responsible for the spill," he said. "If you spill oil in waters off the United States, you will be fined."

Another oil-soaked bird turned up at Makapu'u on O'ahu last week. Willis' office is trying to determine if there is any connection between that find and the birds found on Kaua'i.

The Clean Island Council sent a ship to Kaua'i to help look for oil residue, but the search hasn't been successful, said Kim Beasley, general manager of the council.

"It could be a mystery spill," he said. "The birds with the oil could have been oiled well offshore."

The council represents such major oil companies as Chevron, Shell and Tesoro and has oil cleanup equipment at state harbors, Beasley said.

"We are watching the beaches and are trying to help the birds," he

(See Seabird on Page 2)



OIL-SOAKED SEABIRDS, recovered on Kaua'i, are being sent to Maui for treatment. The Coast Guard, meanwhile, attempts to pinpoint the cause of a suspected oil spill.

Seabird

(Continued from Page 1)

said.

On Monday, one of the five birds was brought to the Koloa Fire Station. Another was spotted in an area south of Anahola Beach, but there apparently were no attempts to retrieve it, Caldwell said.

The remaining three birds were spotted by a fisherman at PMRF. He took one to the Hanapepe fire station, but the other two were only lightly oiled and flew away, Caldwell said.

Only two of the five seabirds found on Friday have survived.

All had been heavily covered with oil, and in treating them, Massey said he gave them nutrition and fluids because they were dehydrated.

The treatment included the use of powdered charcoal, which helps to absorb chemicals in the birds.

The birds had been picked up by a kayaker off Crater Hill in Kilauea and by a fisherman in Kilauea Bay and at Larsen's Beach and at a beach in front of the Wailua Golf Course. A fifth one was brought to the Lihue fire station.

The oiled birds included red-footed boobies and at least one brown booby.

All are seagoing birds and they apparently came into contact with the oil in the ocean when they dove into the water looking for fish to eat, Caldwell said.

The Coast Guard sent two pollution investigators to Kaua'i by helicopter Saturday. The helicopter conducted low-level searches along shoreline areas in north and northeast Kaua'i.

The investigators later conducted their search by foot in Aliomanu, where most of the tarballs were found, Willis said.

Three more oil-covered birds wash ashore on Kauai beaches

BY TRISH MOORE
Kauai correspondent

LIHUE — Three more sea birds covered in oil were found washed ashore on Kauai beaches yesterday.

Since last Friday 15 birds — nine on Kauai and six on Oahu — have been found drenched in oil of unknown origin.

Camri Ragudo's three children were covered with tar and oil after swimming at Nukolihi Beach on Kauai last weekend.

The Coast Guard has been investigating reports of oil along Kauai's northeast coast, but so far have not been able to determine the source of the oil.

The Coast Guard is awaiting results from a laboratory test of oil samples that were collected in the area and sent to a Coast Guard laboratory on the mainland, said Capt. Frank Whipple, commander of the Coast Guard's marine safety office in Honolulu.

“

Without knowing what kind of oil it is, whether it's fuel or intermediate fuel, and how long it's been in the ocean, we can't speculate on where it may have come from.

”

Capt. Frank Whipple

Commander of the Coast Guard's marine safety office in Honolulu

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Investigators do a “fingerprinting” of the oil samples, and look for a matching source, he said.

“Without knowing what kind of oil it is, whether it's fuel or intermediate fuel, and how long it's been in the ocean, we can't speculate on where it may have come from,” Whipple said.

Whipple said the Coast Guard has found “very, very little” amounts of oil in the open ocean.

The Coast Guard collected about a 55-gallon drum full of marble-sized tar balls along a mile-long stretch of beach near Anahola over the weekend.

Sea and air searches didn't turn up any offshore oil within a 5-mile radius around the island, Whipple said.

Kauai District wildlife manager Tom Telfer there may be more than one source of oil because some of the birds were found covered in a thick tar-like oil, and others had a lighter type of oil on them.

Of the three birds found yesterday, two were in “fairly good condition” and sent to a state Department of Land and Natural Resources veterinarian on Maui for treatment, Telfer said.

Most of the birds affected on Kauai are red-footed boobies. A large colony of the birds is on the northeast shore of the island at the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge.

The boobies, which plunge into the ocean after their prey, tend to be vulnerable to oil floating on the surface of the ocean, Telfer said. They're attracted to things that float because often their prey is hiding beneath it.

Ragudo said her kids came out of the ocean covered in patches of tar.

“When the tide came in, it was just all over them,” Ragudo said of the tar. “We didn't think it was an oil spill, but if it is they should fine all those boats out there so it doesn't happen again.”

Judy Dalton, Sierra Club co-chairwoman on Kauai, said she had no comment until the oil sample test results are in.

Mystery spill claims albatross

Oily birds found on Kauai, Oahu

By Jan TenBruggencate
Advertiser Kauai Bureau

LIHUE, Kauai — A Laysan albatross was found covered in oil yesterday on Kauai's west side, joining 16 brown and red-footed boobies as victims of a mysterious oil spill that began washing ashore on Kauai a week ago.

The oil seems to have stopped coming ashore, but its source is still not known, said Capt. Frank Whipple, head of the Coast Guard's

Marine Safety Office.

The birds apparently were exposed to the oil at sea, probably while diving into the ocean as they fed on marine life, wildlife experts said.

Tom Telfer, a biologist with the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife, said oiled birds have been found around the Kauai coastline and at rookeries like Kilauea Point and Barking Sands on Kauai; and at Makapuu and Sea Life Park on Oahu. Some were found on the shore or swimming near the shore.

The oil coatings on many of the birds has made them incapable of flying.

At least five of the birds

have died. Others have been flown to Maui for treatment at the state's Maui Veterinary Services Office.

Residents of Kauai's eastern coastline began reporting oil washing ashore Sept. 4. The oil was heaviest in the Alii manua to Anahola area, although it was found in small gobs on other eastern coasts.

Coast Guard officials said the oil may be from difference sources, since some of the material was very thick and tarlike, while some was quite liquid. Whipple said his office expected to learn today the results of chemical tests on the oil, which should help pinpoint its origin.



NEWS WATCH



Tesoro hose problem caused oil-soaked birds

An Aug. 24 oil spill from a hose failure at the Tesoro Hawaii Corp. mooring off Barbers Point was responsible for sea birds washing up soaked with oil, the Coast Guard said.

Over the past week, at least 15 birds — nine on Kauai and six on Oahu — have been found oil-soaked from the spill.

The Coast Guard identified the source of oil on two of the birds and on two tar balls found earlier this week.

Capt. Frank Whipple, commander of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office here, said a spill of ship fuel resulted from the hose failure at the mooring 1½ miles off-shore. Cleanup efforts were completed two weeks ago, but enough oil evidently got away to soak the birds.

The offshore mooring is a floating buoy used to transfer crude oil and refined products between ships and the refinery on shore.

"We regret that the accidental hose failure has impacted the environment and birds," said Tesoro Hawaii spokesman Nathan Hokama. "We will continue to work with the Coast Guard as well as federal and state agencies to take any further action they deem necessary."

Oil-soaked birds are being treated at Sea Life Park and the state forestry office on Maui. Tesoro Hawaii and Clean Islands Council, an oil-spill response cooperative, are providing logistical support. The International Bird Rescue Research Center also is helping.

Tesoro hose failure called cause of oil spill

By Mike Gordon

Advertiser Staff Writer

The Coast Guard says Tesoro Hawaii Corp. is responsible for at least some of the oil that soiled sea birds and washed up on Kauai beaches during the last week.

The spill originated Aug. 24 at Tesoro's single-point mooring about a half mile off Barbers Point, following an accidental hose failure, the Coast Guard said. The mooring is a floating buoy used to transfer crude oil and refined products from ships to shore.

Although Tesoro, the state Department of Health and the Coast Guard mobilized to clean the spill, small amounts of oil began washing ashore last weekend on Kauai's northeast-

ern shoreline.

Since Sept. 4, 20 oiled birds have been found. Half of them have died. The oil coatings made them unable to fly. The birds probably were exposed to the oil while diving into the ocean as they fed on marine life, wildlife experts have said.

The birds, which included red-footed boobies, a brown booby and a petrel, are being treated at Sea Life Park on Oahu and at the state's Maui Veterinary Services Office.

The Coast Guard said more than 30 people are working to clean beaches on Kauai where tar balls have washed up.

Oiled birds can be reported to the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office at 522-8264. The after-hours number is 927-0830.

Tesoro sends oil cleanup team to island



WORKERS contracted by Tesoro clean up tarballs at Nukoli'i Beach Saturday afternoon.

(Photo by Dennis Fujimoto)

New spill possible

By LESTER CHANG
and BRANDON SPRAGUE

LIHU'E — Valerie Moore, a spokesperson for an oil spill response team sent by Tesoro Hawaii Corp. to Kaua'i Saturday, said that a new oil spill may be responsible for fresh oil found on another seabird delivered to Hanalei Fire Station that day.

That brings the toll to at least 20 seabirds contaminated with oil over the past week.

Tesoro has admitted responsibility for an Aug. 24 hose failure at its Barbers Point facility, which caused a 400-gallon oil spill at the

company's O'ahu refinery.

"Once they got the results, they stepped up to the plate," said Capt. Frank Whipple, head of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office on O'ahu.

"They understood it was their oil."

More than 50 members of the company's oil spill response team were deployed to Kaua'i Saturday shortly after it was announced that the oil covering seabirds found on the island resulted from the August spill.

Three beaches — Fuji in Kapa'a, Marine Camp and Nukoli'i in Wailua — were closed to accom-

modate the clean-up.

"We have a match," Capt. Frank Whipple, head of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office on O'ahu, said Saturday. "Some of the samples we have gotten back indicate the oil on the beach and on the birds came from the Tesoro spill."

The finding was based on the results of chemical tests of oil samples done by a Coast Guard facility in Connecticut. The results were to be sent to Whipple's office Friday.

Tesoro set up a command center at the Outrigger Hotel early Satur-

(See Spill on Page 2)

Spill (Continued from Page 1)

day morning and sent out teams to check for damage on island beaches.

Finding tarballs at Fuji, Marine Camp and Nukoli'i beaches, Tesoro work crews evacuated people, cordoned off the affected areas with yellow tape to begin a sweep of the beaches.

Employees from the Gas Company were brought in to keep the public from coming near the oil-impacted zones.

"We wanted to make sure the impact isn't spreading into people's homes," said David Carter, supervisor of the beach cleanup effort.

"The high and aromatic end of the oil spill is over," he said, "We want to keep people off the beaches so they don't get tarballs on their shoes, but for birds it can be death."

The seabirds found on Kaua'i are "just the tip of the iceberg," said Don Heacock of the state DNLR Aquatic Resources Division on Kaua'i.

The birds apparently came into contact with the oil when they dove into the water looking for fish to eat. Many other birds that had done the same probably died and might have been eaten by sharks,

Heacock said.

"What we are seeing is a small fraction of the number that were covered with oil," he said.

According to Nathan Hokama, spokesperson for Tesoro, the team will work over the weekend cleaning up tarballs and testing beaches for oil that may have been washed up and covered with sand. Tesoro has brought in two oil spill response vessels from O'ahu to assist in the effort.

"We'll be there until it's all cleaned up," Hokama said.

Oil has been found on beaches from Moloa'a to Mana. Pacific Environmental Corp was hired by the Coast Guard for the initial cleanup on Sept. 5 and 6 and has collected at least 42 gallons of tarballs. The cleanup has been going on since then, but was redoubled Saturday.

Whipple said fines against the company are pending.

Heacock said the impact of the oil on the shoreline hasn't been determined yet. He visited affected areas last week.

Most of the 42 gallons of tarballs collected by Pacific Environmental came from Aliomanu Beach and parts of Anahola Bay, the Coast

Guard said.

Moore said if beachgoers or fishermen spot oiled birds, they shouldn't go near them because they may become distressed or dangerous. Instead, please call the Outrigger Command Center at 245-1955, ext. 4043.

State Briefs

Tesoro spill cause of oiled birds

HONOLULU (AP) — A hose failure at the Tesoro Hawaii mooring point off Barbers Point is the source of tar balls that have washed up on Kauai, harming some wildlife, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

Cleanup work continued Saturday at several Garden Isle beaches, with the Coast Guard, oil company and state taking part.

Small tar balls have washed up at three beaches, Nukoli, Barking Sands and Polihale, the Coast Guard said.

The amount of oil that washed up at Nukoli and Polihale was minimal, the Guard said, while the amount that washed up at Barking Sands is being assessed.

Two birds were covered by the company's spill of ship fuel on Aug. 24. The birds are being tended to at Sea Life Park on Oahu.

STATE / IN BRIEF

The Associated Press

Wallace Theater Corp. expanding to Saipan

HONOLULU — The second-largest movie theater operator in Hawaii is expanding to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Wallace Theater Corp. announced plans Friday for the first megaplex cinema on the island of Saipan. The complex is expected to be open in May. Cost of the project was not disclosed.

The company operates more than 200 movie screens in the United States, American Samoa, Guam and the Marshall Islands.

Tesoro fuel spill blamed for tar balls on beaches

HONOLULU — A hose failure at the Tesoro Hawaii mooring point off of Barbers Point is the source of tar balls that have washed up on Kauai, harming some wildlife, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

Cleanup work continued Saturday at several Garden Isle beaches, with the Coast Guard, oil company and state taking part.

Small tar balls have washed up at three beaches, Nukol'i, Barking Sands and Polihale, the Coast Guard said.

The amount of oil that washed up at Nukol'i and Polihale was minimal, the Guard said, while the amount that washed up at Barking Sands is being assessed.

Two birds were covered by the company's spill of ship fuel on Aug. 24. The birds are being tended to at Sea Life Park on Oahu. Anyone who finds an oil-soaked bird is asked to call the Hawaii Spill Response Center at 847-8718.

The mooring point is located 1½ miles offshore of Barbers Point, and is where Tesoro transfers crude oil

from ships to the refinery.

Turbulence injures 22 on China Airlines flight

HONOLULU — Eleven people went to the hospital Friday after a China Airlines flight hit turbulence on its way to Honolulu.

Flight 18 was carrying 412 passengers and 22 crew members from Haneida, China, when it hit turbulence around 4:30 a.m. while flying at 37,000 feet, according to Marilyn Kali of the state Department of Transportation.

The 747-400 aircraft arrived safely at the Honolulu International Airport at 7:25 a.m., she said.

The injured passengers were taken to The Queen's Medical Center, where they were treated for neck injuries, sprains, lacerations and bone fractures before being released, Kali said.

The plane's return flight to China was delayed for two hours while its flight recorder was removed for the National Transportation Safety Board, which is investigating the incident.

Deal reached on fixing softball stadium at U.H.

HONOLULU — The architect of the ill-fated University of Hawaii softball stadium has agreed to bear the cost of raising the playing field by 4 feet.

Under an out-of-court settlement to be finalized Monday, it will cost architect Bryce Uyehara slightly more than half of the \$580,000 needed to fix and improve the stadium. Taxpayers will pick up the rest of the bill.

The \$1.2 million stadium opened in January even though the height of the grandstand prevented a view of home plate from about 90 percent of the facility's 1,200 seats.

The Honolulu Advertiser

HAWAII

Monday, September 14, 1998
City Desk: 525-8090 •

B

Tesoro oil spill estimate rises

Company says 117 barrels — not 10 — may have gone into ocean

By Walter Wright
Advertiser Staff Writer

Tar balls from the Tesoro Hawaii oil spill have been found on two more Kauai beaches, and company officials said yesterday that as much as 117 barrels of oil may have been spilled on Aug. 24.

That exceeds an original estimate of 10 barrels, which was based on observations

from helicopters flying over oil-sheen spots at sea. (A barrel contains 42 gallons.) The oil spilled when a hose failed at Tesoro's single-point mooring 1 1/2 miles off Barbers Point.

To date, 24 injured seabirds have been captured for treatment and 11 of those have died. State Deputy Health Director Bruce Anderson said

the number of birds injured may be 10 or a hundred times as many.

The surviving birds were being rehydrated at a Maui treatment and rehabilitation center and at Sea Life Park on Oahu.

The Coast Guard last night was planning a nighttime infrared search for bird-killing slicks still at sea.

The Aug. 24 spill could possibly be the third-largest in the 10-year history of the mooring, behind the 1989 Exxon Houston tanker grounded by its captain after a chain broke

(600 barrels spilled) and the 1990 Texaco Connecticut collision with the mooring (400 barrels spilled).

The oil reported at Kauai's Barking Sands, Polihale and Nukoli'i beaches earlier also showed up on Fuji Beach and remote Kipukai Beach over the weekend.

The Oil Response Center said yesterday that it had started cleanup efforts at Fuji Beach, and that cleanup efforts at Nukoli'i Beach were continuing and "proceeding smoothly." Anderson said the tar balls found on Kipukai far exceed

those staining the sands of the other beaches.

There is no threat to human health, he said, but he has closed Fuji and Nukoli'i because of the tar balls.

Linda Elliott, rehabilitation manager for the wildlife rescue efforts, said the injured birds include red-footed and brown boobies and a petrel.

State and federal officials were to meet today to evaluate the cost of the damage.

Tesoro is working with the Coast Guard, the Clean Islands Council and the Marine Spill Response Corp. in the cleanup.

Oil spill near Barbers Point kills 11 seabirds

The problem occurred when a
hose failed 1½ miles off shore

Star-Bulletin staff

Twenty-four seabirds have been captured or injured because of an oil spill off Barbers Point last month and tar balls have turned up on several Kauai beaches.

Eleven birds have died because of the oil spill.

The spill occurred Aug. 24 when a hose failed at Tesoro Hawaii's mooring located 1½ miles off Barbers Point, according to a Tesoro company official.

Small oil tar balls have washed ashore at Nukoli Beach and Fuji Beach on the east side of Kauai and Barking Sands and Poihale Beach on the west side.

The remaining birds have been treated at state division of forestry's Maui veterinary office, Sea Life Park and the state land department.

The birds affected include red-footed boobies, brown boobies and petrels.

Oil company officials estimate that as many as 117 barrels of oil may have been spilled on Aug. 24, which could make it the third largest spill in state history.

Two other spills occurred at Barber's Point. In 1989, the Exxon Houston tanker grounded and 600 barrels were lost, and in 1990, the Texaco Connecticut struck a mooring and 400 barrels were dumped.

Tesoro hikes oil spill estimate

**Refiner now
thinks up to
as 117 barrels
could have
entered ocean**

By BRANLON SPRAGUE
Staff Writer

WAILUA — Tesoro Hawaii's
has hiked the estimate of its Aug.
24 oil spill from 420 gallons to
more than 10 times that amount.

Tesoro Hawaii's spokesperson
Naiban Hokama said yesterday that

as many as 117 42-gallon barrels of
oil could have gushed into the
ocean during the Aug. 24 accident
off Barber's Point on O'ahu.

Hokama also ruled out the pos-
sibility that the oil washing up on
Kauai's beaches was from another
spill or source. It was believed that
the differing types of oil — some

tarballs looking fresh and others
seeming drier, for example —
could be signs of a second spill.

"All of the oil is directly related
to the Tesoro spill. There is cur-
rently no evidence of a new spill
from any other source," Hokama
said.

Hokama also discounted the pos-

sibility of a continuation of the
original spill that occurred on
Tesoro's single point mooring off
Barber's Point last month.

Hokama said that the source of
the original spill, a leak in a hose
that was transferring bunker oil to a
ship, had been repaired several
days after the incident.

The spill, which occurred at 8
p.m. on Monday, Aug. 24, was
reported immediately to the Coast
Guard and the state Department of
Health, Hokama said. That night
The Clean Island oil spill response
vessel, contracted by Tesoro,

(See Spill on Page 2)

Spill (Continued from Page 1)

responded to the call and started efforts to clean up the spill, he said.

For four days, the Coast Guard continued to conduct flyovers to survey the area for additional oil, said Capt. Frank Whipple, commander of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office.

Even though none was found, Hokama said Tesoro officials now estimate that as many as 117 barrels of oil could have spilled into the ocean.

For its part, Tesoro Hawai'i doubled the manpower of its cleanup effort yesterday. Oil spill response team members stationed here on Kaua'i and at the command center on O'ahu now number over 150, up from the 50 deployed on Saturday.

Top officials from the U.S. Coast Guard and Tesoro Hawai'i flew in from O'ahu yesterday to oversee cleanup operations and to brief Mayor Maryanne Kusaka.

"I was glad to see (the oil spill response team) was so well-organized and that they addressed the situation quickly," Kusaka said after the briefing. She added that the county had already given assistance to the cleanup in the form of police and fire personnel.

"We are prepared to give any more assistance if needed to get it cleared up as soon as possible," Kusaka added, saying that police were being used to keep people off the affected beaches. Over the weekend, that role fell to employees of the Gas Company, who had been trained in oil spill response.

The oil spill response team consists of members from the Coast Guard, Tesoro Hawai'i, the state Department of Health, and various oil spill response contractors hired by Tesoro.

Workers have been manually collecting tarballs and debris clinging to them from the beaches.

Other teams have been testing certain beaches for oil possibly buried under layers of sand.

Two oil spill response vessels had been deployed to search for floating oil deposits around the island. On Sunday Tesoro started chartering helicopters to do flyovers in an attempt to spot tarball deposits on the beach.

No estimates on the amount of long-term damage created by the spill were forthcoming, nor any figure on how much the cleanup would eventually cost Tesoro.

Meanwhile, the Kaula Point area at Kipukai was added to the list of oil-impacted zones Sunday afternoon, joining Barking Sands, Polihale, Kapa'a and Hanalei as the focus of the team's survey and cleanup work.

According to Whipple, the most heavily affected area thus far has been Kapa'a and Wailua, where Fujii (Baby Beach) and Nukoli'i beaches remained closed over the weekend as teams removed tarballs from the sand.

The number of oiled seabirds captured by the team has risen to 24, an increase of four since Saturday. This does not include the many sightings of oiled birds over the weekend. Whipple said that wildlife specialists contracted by Tesoro were following up on sightings in an attempt to capture more birds.

The majority of the birds captured have been red-footed boobies, although one petrel was also brought in. The surviving birds have been taken to a facility on Kaua'i established by the state Department of Land and Natural Resources. Once stabilized, they are flown to the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife's veterinary services office on Maui.

Birds and mammals are very susceptible to oil spills, especially in

the form of tarballs, which collect in the feathers or fur and interfere with the creatures' ability to regulate temperature. That way, an oiled bird is more likely to die from hyperthermia or hypothermia than anything else related to the oil spill. Out of the 24 oiled birds captured, 10 have died since being taken into captivity.

There was a concern that monk seals would also be under threat, Whipple said, but given the particular type of oil in this spill, he did not expect it to pose a severe hazard to seals.

The oil from the spill is a thicker type of oil called bunker oil used to fuel large ships, Hokama said.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Website, bunker oil is not the type of oil that just goes away. Lighter oil, such as diesel, is more likely to evaporate before washing up on a beach. Heavy oil like bunker oil, however, can take years to degrade and if it is not recovered soon after a spill, its physical properties change and it becomes stickier and more difficult to handle.

Just how the oil came to land on Kaua'i still mystifies members of the team. Computer modeling used to predict the trajectory of the spill put any oil at least 20 miles south of Kaua'i.


"Mother Nature...has brought (the oil) up and moved it around the island. Now how she did that, I don't know," Whipple said. However, he added, ocean currents account for 97 percent of oil spill travel.

Whipple said that an average of one oil spill is reported to the Coast Guard every day, although the majority of those reported are quite small in volume.

P 06210 rj Oh1-d HI-4th NewsMinute

09-14 6:26p

ere is the latest Hawaii news from The Associated Press

(Lihue, Kauai) -- The cleanup continues today on Kauai of oil that washed ashore on several beaches. Tesoro Hawaii says the oil is from a spill of 117 barrels of oil last night that the company originally announced as being only ten barrels. More than a dozen birds have died as a result of the spill. 

(Honolulu) -- The U-H medical school is being recommended for closure by two reports prepared by university faculty. Both reports recommend the clinical medical school be closed and its research programs moved elsewhere.

(Bangkok, Thailand) -- Analysts in Hawaii will review remains of suspected U-S servicemen recovered from Laos. The U-S conducted a secret war in Laos during the Vietnam War.

(Honolulu) -- The vice president of the Philippines is in Hawaii seeking investment for her country. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo says economic reforms implemented in the Philippines have allowed the nation to better weather the problems of the current Asian economic crisis than other countries.

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SIERRA CLUB, HAWAII CHAPTER

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MĀLAMA I KA HONUA - CHERISH THE EARTH

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: David Kimo Frankel (808) 538-6616 September 14, 1998
Director, Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter

Sierra Club Calls For Maximum Penalty For Oil Spills

The Sierra Club today called for state and federal officials to fine Tesoro the maximum penalties allowed by law. David Kimo Frankel, Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter Director charged: "By spilling over a hundred barrels of oil, Tesoro has killed seabirds, damaged marine life and polluted some of Hawaii's most beautiful beaches. The oil company must be held strictly liable for polluting the environment."

Judy Dalton, Sierra Club Kauai Group chair asked "Why should this oil company continue to profit while birds are dying and our beaches are closed?"

The Sierra Club asked the Coast Guard to levy a \$25,000 fine for the violation and called on the State Health Department to ensure that millions more are recovered to compensate for the loss of seabirds, the long-term damage to marine life, and the closure of Hawaii's beaches.

Oil spill may be 10 times bigger

LIHUE (AP) — Tesoro Hawaii has increased by more than tenfold its estimate of the size of an oil spill from its transfer facility offshore of Barber's Point.

The spill has resulted in the deaths of at least 10 birds, harm to dozens more and closure of beaches on Kauai.

The spill was reported Aug. 29 at Tesoro's mooring point 1½ miles offshore of its refinery at Barber's Point. The mooring point is where the company unloads oil from ships

into lines that feed into its refinery.

At the time, Tesoro said the spill was only 10 barrels based on aerial observations it had conducted. On Sunday, the company increased the size of the spill, saying up to 117 42-gallon barrels of oil had spilled.

The company blamed its low original estimate on the lack of observation of oil during its aerial surveys.

The Coast Guard said it has been difficult to locate the tar balls because they are so small.

Officials said the spill caught them

off guard because computer projections showed the spill would not come near any of the islands.

Tesoro Hawaii is working with the Coast Guard and two oil spill response cooperatives, the Clean Islands Council and the Marine Spill Response Corporation, in the cleanup effort. More than 150 people are involved in the cleanup.

The state Department of Health has closed two Kauai beaches because of the marble-size tar balls that are washing ashore.

HSB 7-14-78

13 birds killed by oil spill off Barbers Point

It may be the state's third largest spill; tar balls reach Kauai

By TRISH MOORE
Kauai correspondent

In the aftermath of what could be the third-largest oil spill in state history, tar balls are turning up on several Kauai beaches, while 26 seabirds have been found.

Of those, 13 birds have died because of the spill off Barbers Point on Aug. 24.

A hose failed at Tesoro Hawaii's mooring located 1½ miles off Barbers Point, a Tesoro official said.

Small oil tar balls have washed ashore at several Kauai beaches: from Fuji Beach on the northeast coast, around to Barking Sands and Polihale Beach on the island's west side.

The state Health Department has closed several beaches for cleanup.

According to Capt. Frank Whipple, commander of the Coast Guard's marine safety office, about 150 people are involved in the cleanup which will last "until the oil's gone." That could take two weeks or more, he said.

Tesoro has two oil-skimming vessels and helicopters searching the ocean for oil.

Oiled beaches don't pose a serious threat to the public, Whipple said. "It's the birds that are taking the biggest hit."

Judy Dalton, co-chairwoman of the Sierra Club, Kauai chapter, lives at Nukoli Beach, where much of the cleanup is happening.

She said black globs 7-8 inches wide are strewn for several hundred yards along the beach. As crews clear the beach, more globs wash ashore, Dalton said.

"We see the devastating impact on the birds. What other effects is it having on the ocean and marine life?" she asked. "This is pretty sad."

The remaining birds have been treated at the state division of forestry's Maui veterinary office, Sea Life Park and the state land department. They include red-footed boobies, brown boobies and petrels.

Oil company and Coast Guard officials had estimated that about 10 barrels of oil were spilled, but that figure rose after oil and tar began appearing on Kauai beaches, Whipple said. As many as 117 barrels of oil may have been spilled, which could make it the third largest spill in state history.



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The Shinnyo-En Foundation believes school programs that encourage sympathy and compassion will prepare public school students for future life to build a more ethical society.

Foundation director Haruo Inouye and program manager Laura Foulke were in Honolulu last week to attend the 25th anniversary of the Shinnyo-En Hawaii Temple on Beretania Street and to meet with the leaders of two national programs receiving grants from the foundation.

During their Hawaii visit in 1994, Inouye and Foulke have been working to build relationships with Hawaii educators who share a commitment to instilling "universal values" in Hawaii's young people.

The Coalition for Drug-Free Hawaii will invest foundation grants in public elementary schools with the goal of strengthening family relationships, communication skills, Hawaiian cultural values through the Strengthening Families program.

During the summer, sixth-seventh-grade students in Oahu's public schools attended Summerbridge camp with the help of a Shinnyo-En Foundation grant.

More than 60 middle school students participated in an ethnic enrichment program by talented high school and college students. Leadership camps were developed through the "service learning" program.

Inouye planned the start of the Shinnyo-En Foundation's 25th anniversary celebration in Hawaii to coincide with the temple's silver anniversary. On Sunday the dedication of approximately 100 members celebrated the festival of Joy.

Shinnyo-u-sama, daughter of the founder of the order, officiated at a ceremony and shared memories of the growth of the Oahu temple since its beginnings in 1973.

Shinnyo-En members are dedicated to Buddhist principles of civic service. Founder Jo Ito said that "to serve others is to benefit the world."

The foundation, established in 1969, provides a vehicle to express this ideal.

Tuesday, September 15, 1998
City Desk: 525-8090

The Honolulu Advertiser HAWAII

Search for oil victims widening

Aug. 24 spill suspected
in bird losses on 3 islands

By Jan TenBruggencate
Advertiser Kauai Bureau

Oil spill recovery teams combed beaches on Kauai, Oahu and Niihau yesterday for remnants of a spill that has killed seabirds on two islands and perhaps on a third.

A dozen surviving oil-coated birds are in the care of veterinarians, and more are still flying free, carrying black streaks on their feathers but spry enough to avoid capture.

Virtually all of the oil has been traced to the Aug. 24 spill in which a hose failed while the crude oil tanker Overseas New York was taking on fuel oil at the Tesoro Hawaii (formerly BHP Hawaii) mooring off Barbers Point.

Tesoro Hawaii has accepted responsibility for the spill and will pay for the cleanup, said Capt. Frank Whipple, head of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in Honolulu. There is as yet no estimate of how much that will cost, Tesoro spokesman Nathan Hokama said.

Oil spill response teams yesterday afternoon were checking the coastline at Laie on Oahu after a resident reported finding a large glob of tar on the beach, along with smaller bits of what appeared to be tar balls.

Another team yesterday morning found no traces of oil at Niihau following a helicopter search of the shoreline and a beach survey at Keana-haki Bay on the island's south side. However, Keith Robin-



son, a member of the family that owns Niihau, said he spotted what appeared to be a small oil slick in mid-channel between Kauai and Niihau, but could not relocate it when the helicopter returned to check.

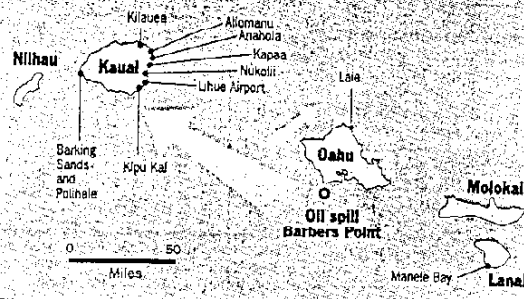
Most of the oil that washed ashore did so on Kauai, and most of that in small gobs and splashes.

Tesoro has said it does not know exactly how much oil was spilled, but that it can be no more than 117 barrels, or about 5,000 gallons. Some of the oil was captured and cleaned up immediately after the spill, but an unknown amount floated free, ending up on Kauai beaches.

The Sierra Club Hawaii

Effects spreading

Tarballs and oil gobs from the Aug. 24 spill at Tesoro Hawaii's Barbers Point tanker mooring have washed up all around Kauai and possibly on Oahu. Oiled seabirds have been found on several Kauai beaches and seabird nesting areas, at the rookery near Sea Life Park and at Manele Bay on Lanai.



Advertiser Bureau

Globs of tar stain rocks at Ahukini Landing near Lihue on Kauai. Oil spill recovery teams have found oil along much of Kauai's eastern coastline after the Aug. 24 accident involving a tanker refueling at Barbers Point.

Jan TenBruggencate /
The Honolulu Advertiser

Chapter yesterday asked state and federal officials to seek maximum fines against Tesoro for the spill.

"By spilling over a hundred barrels of oil, Tesoro has killed seabirds, damaged marine life and polluted some of Hawaii's most beautiful beaches. The oil company must be held strictly liable for polluting the environment," said David Kimo Frankel, Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter director.

The Coast Guard and state Department of Health yesterday closed beaches at Kapaa and Nukunui on East Kauai to allow tar balls to be cleaned up.

Cleanup crews also responded to reports of oil on

Kilauea Beach and at Ahukini. Crews during the past week have cleaned up oil along much of Kauai's coastline, including at Polihale, Kipu Kai, the stretch from Lihue to Kapaa, and Anahola to Kilauea. A survey of the Na Pali Coast was planned.

Seabirds appear to be the form of wildlife most affected by the spill.

The degree of impact appears to depend both on the amount of oil the bird gets on its feathers, and on how individuals birds react to the stress of being coated in oil, handled and cleaned up, said Greg Massey, veterinarian with the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife's Maui Veterinary Services Office.

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